

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 3, line 11, as follows:

In one aspect the present invention may be said to consist in a method for converting an electronic document interchangeably between a format for use in a Braille environment and a format for use in a word processor environment including:

receiving input in a first of the environments specifying the electronic document,

storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format, and

converting the electronic document from an intermediary file format into an destination file format adapted for use editing in the second of the environments,

wherein the intermediary format specifies the ~~electronic~~ document formatting in at least one of the environments.

Preferably transferring the document to an apparatus adapted for operation in the second of the environments.

Preferably rendering the electronic document in the second of the environments in accordance with the specified formatting.

Preferably editing the electronic document formatting for one of the environments.

Preferably editing the electronic document in one of the environments does not affect formatting of the rendered electronic document in the other of the environments.

Preferably the input is received in a Braille environment from a Braille keyboard, standard keyboard or a stored computer file.

Preferably the destination format is adapted for use in a word processor environment.

Preferably the input is received in a word processor environment from a standard keyboard or a stored computer file.

Preferably the destination format is adapted for use in a Braille environment.

Preferably the destination format is compatible with word processing equipment to assist in creating, editing, rendering and/or printing a text document.

Preferably the destination format is compatible with Braille equipment to assist in creating, editing, rendering and/or embossing a Braille document.

Preferably the destination format for use in a Braille environment specifies the electronic document for rendering in grade 1, 2 or computer Braille.

Preferably the destination format for use in a word processor environment specifies the electronic document for presentation on a word processor.

Preferably said method further comprising transmitting the document to another computer.

Preferably the electronic document formatting is specified by codes indicating page layout, character attributes and the like.

In a second aspect the present invention may be said to consist in a method for converting an electronic document interchangeably between a format for use in a Braille environment and a format for use in a word processor environment including:

receiving input specifying an electronic document from an input device
operating in the Braille environment,

storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format which specifies
the electronic document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word
processor environment,

converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a
word processor file format,

and transferring the electronic document in the word processor format to
equipment operating in the word processor environment,

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored
independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the
document formatting for each environment.

In a third aspect the present invention may be said to consist in a method for
converting an electronic document interchangeably between a format for use in a
Braille environment and a format for use in a word processor environment including:

receiving input specifying an electronic document from an input device
operating in the word processor environment,

storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format which specifies
the electronic document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word
processor environment,

converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a
Braille file format,

and transferring the electronic document in the Braille format to equipment operating in the Braille environment.

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment.

In ~~another~~ a fourth aspect the present invention may be said to consist in an apparatus which enables use of an electronic document in a Braille and a word processor environment including:

at least one document input device in a first of the environments for entering an electronic document into the apparatus,

a storage device for storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format, and

translator for converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a destination file format for use in the second of the environments,

wherein the intermediary file format specifies the electronic document formatting in at least one of the environments.

Preferably said method further comprising an input device for editing the electronic document formatting for each of the environments.

Preferably editing the document formatting for one of the environments does not affect document formatting for the other environment.

Preferably said method further comprising a telecommunications port for transferring the document to another apparatus.

Preferably the second of the environments is a word processor environment and the destination format is adapted for compatibility with word processor equipment.

Preferably the second of the environments is a Braille environment and the destination format is adapted for compatibility with Braille equipment.

Preferably the format for use in a Braille environment specifies information for rendering the document in grade 1, 2 or computer Braille.

Preferably the document formatting is specified by codes indicating page layout, character attributes and the like.

Preferably said method further comprising an output device for rendering the electronic document in a visual, tactile or audible manner.

In a fifth aspect the present invention may be said to consist in an apparatus which enables use of an electronic document interchangeably between a Braille and a word processor environment including:

at least one document input device operating in the Braille environment for entering an electronic document into the apparatus,

a storage device for storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format which specifies the electronic document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word processor environment,

a translator for converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a word processor file format compatible for use with word processor equipment operating in the word processor environment.

a communication device for transferring the document between the storage device and the word processor equipment, and

an editing device for editing the electronic document formatting for each of the environments,

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary file format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment.

In a sixth aspect the present invention may be said to consist in an apparatus which enables use of an electronic document interchangeably between in a Braille and a word processor environment including:

at least one document input device operating in the word processor environment for entering an electronic document into the apparatus,

a storage device for storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format which specifies the electronic document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word processor environment,

a translator for converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a Braille file format compatible for use with Braille equipment operating in a Braille environment,

a communication device for transferring the document between the storage device and the Braille equipment, and

an editing device for editing the electronic document formatting for each of the environments,

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment.

In a seventh aspect the present invention may be said to consist in an apparatus which enables use of an electronic document interchangeably between in a Braille and a word processor environment including:

at least one document input device operating in the word processor environment for entering an electronic document into the apparatus,

a storage device for storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format which specifies the electronic document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word processor environment,

a translator for converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a Braille file format compatible for use with Braille equipment operating in a Braille environment,

a communication device for transferring the document between the storage device and the Braille equipment, and

an editing device for editing the electronic document formatting for each of the environments,

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment.

In a seventh aspect the present invention may be said to consist in a device for use of an electronic document between at least two environments, at least one of

said environments being a Braille environment or a word processor environment including:

means for receiving input, in either of the environments, which specifies the electronic document;

means for storing the document electronically in an intermediary file format, which preserves all the content of the document including but not limited to, information content, document presentation content, and content conditional on the environment in which it is being used;

means for converting the document from the intermediary file format into a destination file format adapted for storing, reviewing or editing in one of the environments, including that content which is conditional on that environment.

Preferably said method further comprising means for reviewing the document content in either of the environments, including that content which is conditional on either environment,

Preferably said method further comprising means for editing the document content, in either of the environments, including that content which is conditional on either environment,

In an eighth aspect the present invention may be said to consist in device for use of an electronic document interchangeably between at least two environments, at least one of said environments being a Braille environment or a word processor environment including:

means for receiving input, in either of the environments, which specifies the electronic document;

means for storing the document electronically in an intermediary file format, which preserves all the content of the document including but not limited to, information content, document presentation content, and content conditional on the environment in which it is being used;

means for converting the document from the intermediary file format into a destination file format adapted for storing, reviewing or editing in one of the environments, including that content which is conditional on that environment.

In a ninth aspect the present invention may be said to consist in a device for specifying an electronic document for use in a Braille environment and for use in a word processor environment including:

means for receiving input, in either of the environments, which specifies the document,

means for storing the document electronically in an intermediary file format, which preserves all the content of the document as independent objects,

means for reviewing the document content in either of the environments, including that content which is conditional on either environment,

means for editing the document content, in either of the environments, including that content which is conditional on either environment,

means for converting the document from the intermediary file format into a destination file format adapted for storing, reviewing or editing in only one of the environments.

wherein the intermediary file preserves and specifies the document including but not limited to, information content, document presentation content, and content conditional on the environment in which it is being used.